



NEWS RELEASE

January 28, 2003

Teamwork Yields 990 Pounds of Marijuana in New Mexico

Lordsburg agents assist local police officers in seizing contraband in Chevy Tahoe

EL PASO, Texas -- U.S. Border Patrol agents in Lordsburg and officers from the Lordsburg Police Department teamed up yesterday to intercept nearly a half-ton of marijuana from a truck abandoned by two occupants traveling south of that New Mexico city.

The seizure resulted when Border Patrol agents notified the Lordsburg Police Department about a Chevy Tahoe that was traveling at a high rate of speed in a notorious smuggling area 10 miles south of Animas, N.M. Agents say the vehicle traveled east toward Lordsburg at speeds estimated in excess of 90-miles per hour. Lordsburg Police officers attempted to stop the truck, which failed to yield. The truck continued south to Lordsburg as Police officers followed the vehicle from a distance for approximately four miles. At the end of town the driver and passenger abruptly stopped the vehicle near an abandoned mine complex, and fled on foot.

Border Patrol agents and officers from the Lordsburg Police Department attempted to locate the subjects but were unsuccessful. Inside the truck, officers found 990 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$792,080.00. A records check on the Tahoe revealed that it was stolen out of Glendale, Arizona.

The contraband and truck were turned over to the custody of the Southwest New Mexico Task Force. The investigation into the incident will continue.

In Fiscal Year 2003 to date, Border Patrol agents at the Lordsburg Station have made 24 drug seizures, valued at approximately \$5 million.

~ USBP ~

****Digital photos of the contraband and truck are available to interested members of the news media.**